[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): From the neighbourhood of Killiyar where we have kaolin.

PRESIDENT: I shall split the motion into two parts. The first part runs as follows:

The question is that a sum of Rs. 1,304 for enhancing the stipends tenable in the Government Carpentry and Smithery School at Quilon under Demand XIV—Industries be granted.

The grant was sanctioned.

PRESIDENT: The second part runs as follows:

The question is that a sum of Rs. 6,000 for the purchase of a machine and accessories for the manufacture of stoneware pipes under Demand XIV—Industries be granted.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 18 voting *for* and 20 *against*.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-30 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-19 P. M.

DEMAND XV—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5,803 under Demand XV—Medical Department.

As will be seen from the printed notice, the demand is made up of three items. The first is Br. Rs. 900 for contribution to the Tekkadi Dispensary. At Kumili in the Peermade taluk, there is no Government Medical Officer. There is a small population consisting of coolies of the P. W. D. and the inhabitants of the place. The present arrangement is for the Medical Officer at Peermade to visit Kumili once or twice a week. Kumili is about 20 miles away from Peermade and the House will realise that the work cannot be satisfactorily done under the present arrangement. The Medical Officer has to travel to that place carrying with him his medicines. He cannot possibly stay there for more than two or three hours at each visit. The result is that the coolies do not get sufficient attention at the hands of the Medical Officer, especially when there is an epidemic. It is therefore thought that, as there is a British Dispensary at Tekkadi, which supplies the needs of the coolies of the British P. W. D., that officer might be asked to look after the inhabitants of Kumili as well. Arrangements were made regarding that proposal and the British Government are prepared to ask their Medical Officer to take up that work on condition that we pay them a compensation of Br. Rs. 900 a year. If we are to start a dispensary of our own, it will cost at least Rs. 1,800 for upkeep only. The House will see that it is in the interests of economy as well as for rendering proper medical aid to the people of Kumili that the proposal for giving a contribution has been brought forward.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know the distance between Kumili and Tekkadi.

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PRESIDENT: It is less than a mile.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the distance between Kumili and Peermade?

PRESIDENT: It is not less than 20 miles.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): The second item is for equipping three additional wards in the Hospital for Lepers. At the meeting of the Board of Visitors for the Hospital for Lepers in October 1923, it was decided that three additional wards should be opened. At present, in the Leper Asylum, we have patients in all stages of the disease huddled together in the same ward. It makes the treatment less effective and segregation very difficult, because the progress of treatment cannot be satisfactorily watched. It was therefore found necessary to have different wards, one for patients in whom the disease is most advanced, another for less advanced cases, and a third for those in whom the disease is practically just beginning. The equipment of each ward costs about Rs. 400, resulting in a total expenditure of about Rs. 1,200 for the three wards.

The third item is for giving a non-recurring grant of Rs. 3,687 to the Mission Hospital at Martandam. The House might remember that the question of having a Government Hospital at Kuzhittura has many times been brought up before this Council and the Popular Assembly. As there was an efficient Mission Hospital at Martandam, which is not far from Kuzhittura, Government were of opinion that it was not quite necessary to have a Government Hospital also there. The Mission authorities were approached with a view to providing greater accommodation for out and in patients.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the reason for coming to the conclusion that a Government dispensary need not be opened there?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): Because there was a Mission Hospital at Martandam which is practically Kuzhittura.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether that is a charitable dispensary where medicines are given gratis?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): The Mission gives medicines free to persons who are poor and who cannot afford to pay. People who are able to pay have to pay according to their means.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that they realise the price of medicines even from the poor?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): No, not from the absolutely poor. They have to charge for the medicines given to others because the Mission funds do not permit of such charity. They have to meet a good deal of extra expenditure for extra accommodation and equipment for the institution. This extra accommodation is expected to cost Rs. 14,747 and Government are of opinion that a

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

non-recurring grant of one-fourth of this amount may be given, *i. e.*, Rs. 3,687, towards the construction of buildings and the purchase of the additional lands.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have they put up the buildings already?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): They have started the work.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have they completed the buildings?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): No. Even if the buildings are completed they have to be equipped and a suitable Medical Officer appointed.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Why should Government contribute such a big amount before the work is completed?

PRESIDENT: Payment will, I believe, be made only after the work is finished. That is a matter of detail.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): When that building is finished, it is hoped that it would be better equipped and that they would have a better qualified Medical Officer so that patients could have better treatment. It may be possible that with an increased grant every month, less payment may be demanded. If we are to start a new building at Kuzhittura, it will cost very much more than the amount that we now propose to contribute. The monthly expenditure also would be much more than the grant if we established a Government dispensary there.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ദരിദ്രന്മാരായിരുന്നാലും ധനവാന്മാരായിരുന്നാലും വിലകൊടുക്കാതെ മരുന്നു കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ കുഴിത്തുറ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ മാത്രം വിലകൊടുത്തേ മരുന്നു കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു എന്നുള്ളതു ന്യായമാണോ?

PRESIDENT: There is a large number of Mission Hospitals all over the country.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): മറ്റു പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ആരും തന്നെ മരുന്നിനു വില കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായില്ല. കുഴിത്തുറയിൽ എത്ര പാവപ്പെട്ടവരായിരുന്നാലും വിലകൊടുക്കണം.

PRESIDENT: In Mission Hospitals, they charge the rich all over the country.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഇപ്പോൾ നെയ്യാറ്റിൻകര, തക്കല, പാറശ്ശാല ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുള്ള സർക്കാർ ആശുപത്രികളിൽ അവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിലകൂടാതെ മരുന്നു

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കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്. കഴിഞ്ഞ പ്രാവശ്യം മരുന്നു വിലകൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു വ്യത്യാസം അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏറ്റവും സങ്കടകരമായുള്ളതല്ലേ?

PRESIDENT: It is not for those localities alone. Wherever there is a Mission Hospital the patients have to pay. It is only in Government institutions that the medicines are given gratis.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, on another occasion, when I had to consider this question, I thought that it would be advisable to give a small grant of money as aid to the dispensary which is conducted by the British Government at Tekkadi. The gentleman who explained the official point of view argued the case so convincingly that I thought it to be a matter which might come up before this Council. On further reflection, Sir, I think that it involves a very difficult and delicate principle. For, if we give aid under the rules, the Chief Medical Officer in Travancore, the Darbar Physician, may have to inspect the dispensary or hospital for which the grant is made. If a Travancore Officer wants to inspect a dispensary conducted or patronised by the British Government, the local authorities may not defer to the opinions of the Travancore Officer as to those of the British Officer. There may be a cause for disputes of that kind.

Secondly, considering the nature of the agitation in Travancore in regard to the service being confined to Travancoreans, it is likely that complaints may arise that the officer in charge of the dispensary is not favouring Travancoreans as much as he is bound to do, although we give a grant. Now, to maintain a dispensary when there is a sufficient number of people to be benefited by it, is, so far as Travancore is concerned, one of its obligatory duties. I listened to the lucid speech of Mrs. Lukose and I found that, while we have to give Rs. 900 as grant, we would have to spend Rs. 1,800, if we were to have our own dispensary. The difference is only Rs. 900 and the amount is for a most necessary purpose. Those who live on the hills, subjecting themselves to such a situation, must surely get medical relief of the very best possible kind. So a difference of Rs. 900 does not count with me. I fear, Sir, that there will be a collision on questions of jurisdiction, authority and such like matters under the proposed arrangement. I do not object to the grant as an absolute principle, but I object to it because of the possible ramifications in future. The State having taken upon itself the duty of providing medical relief for all its people, so long as this Council relies on the statement of Mrs. Lukose that there is a large number of people in that locality,—

PRESIDENT: She said that the number was so small that there was hardly any justification for opening a Government dispensary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): She said that there was a considerable number of persons there.

PRESIDENT: She said that there was a body of coolies whose health we should look after.

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[Mr. John Mackie.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I am of opinion that the number of people there being not negligible, it would only be proper that we spend a larger amount on that dispensary than what is proposed under the demand. I am tackling the question on a general principle.

PRESIDENT : There is no dispensary there now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : We ought to have a dispensary there.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*) : May I ask why we should anticipate all these difficulties now ?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : As responsible members of this House entrusted with important business, we ought to look to the present as well as to the future interest of the people of the country. (*Laughter.*)

What I am saying is that, in order to avoid complications which may arise in future, we should not stint money. But, if the House accepts this general principle, I am prepared to make a qualification. If the correspondence has advanced so far as—

PRESIDENT : There is no committal on any side. The proposal originated from Travancore and it is open to be withdrawn.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : If we can come out with grace, I would prefer that. The matter having been raised by the Travancore Government, ordinarily we ought to exculpate ourselves from the charge of dilatoriness in that matter. Otherwise we ought to spend the money ourselves in view of the possible complications that may arise in future.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*) : Is it not within our power to stop this grant ?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Certainly, it is. But, I for one do not want the Travancore Government to get into any kind of unnecessary complication with the British Government.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Sir, I wish to lend my support to the view put forward by Mr. Velu Pillai. There is a very small settlement at Kumili. The P. W. D. coolies are very scanty in number. But, within a radius of three miles, large estates are springing up and those estates are employing hundreds of coolies. They have no dispensaries of their own.

PRESIDENT : Large estates always have dispensaries of their own.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : The estates recently arising near Kumili have no dispensaries.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*) : They ought to have.

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MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): They are bound to have them, but they do not have them. It is the duty of the Government to see that medical aid is given where there is a lack of it. It may at some future time be advisable for the Government to have a dispensary of its own and not to make a grant to another dispensary.

PRESIDENT: You can withdraw the grant then. You can give the grant for a few years and then start a dispensary of your own.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Kumili has begun to come into importance.

PRESIDENT: You yourself said that the population at Kumili was very scanty.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): At Kumili at persent the settlement is small. But within three miles of it a lot of cooly population has come up. They need medical aid and justify the necessity for having a dispensary of their own. When once an agreement has been entered into, it will be extremely delicate to absolve ourselves completely from the bond and to open a dispensary of our own.

PRESIDENT: I do not think so. It is open to us to have our own dispensary.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But we may ourselves feel it delicate later on to withdraw. We must keep our hands open. On that ground, I would suggest the opening of a dispensary by the Government even though we have to incur an expenditure of over Rs. 1,800 for the purpose.

PRESIDENT: This grant need not be a permanent arrangement.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Kumili needs some permanent arrangement. It is not like Tekkadi.

PRESIDENT: The Madras Government is spending over Rs. 4,000.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Not much is being done.

PRESIDENT: Because the population is small.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What will be the population?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Roughly about 150, but not more than that.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolam* cum *Peermade*): What is the number of houses in Kumili?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): There may be forty small sheds which may be dignified by the name of houses. Most of the houses belong to the late Mr. Ankur Rowther.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know the number of people who live in Kumili and within a radius of five miles?

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[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Within a radius of five miles, the population may be about 500 to 800; it is not less than that, but it may be more. At Tekkadi there is no settlement whatever. There are only a few Government quarters and there is very little work for a medical officer to do.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Does Mr. Krishna Aiyar justify a Government Hospital being opened in the interest of 500 to 800 people?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I said that Kumili is increasing in importance. A dispensary is absolutely necessary because it is the most fever-stricken area in Travancore. On that ground, Government are bound to maintain a dispensary of its own for the people of that locality.

PRESIDENT: There are equally, if not more, fever-stricken places elsewere in Travancore.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I did not say I know the whole of Travancore. To the extent of my knowledge, Kumili is the most fever-stricken place. There the Government is bound to open a medical dispensary, nay, even a hospital if necessary, on that ground alone.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolam* cum *Peermade*): Is Kumili on the British frontier?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The village of Kumili is on the frontier on this side of Travancore.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolam* cum *Peermade*): Is there any scope for extension of the village to the south?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): There is no scope for the extension of the village. It is a very small settlement, and it is a reserve.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolam* cum *Peermade*): And to the north?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): It is not a reserve. There are a few tea estates and other estates are coming up.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolam* cum *Peermade*): Do you know where the Amaravati Reserve is?

PRESIDENT: I do not want one member to cross-examine another.

MR. S KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I know very well where it is.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I oppose part (3) of the grant relating to Martandam. Sir, the Darbar Physician just explained that, on account of the existence of the Mission Hospital, people at

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Kuzhittura have not the good fortune to have a Government dispensary. In the Mission Hospital, every patient, so far as I know, the poor as well as the rich, has to pay the cost of medicines; and patients are also obliged to pay if admitted as in-patients about six annas or eight annas daily.

PRESIDENT: They have specially to pay for being in the in-patient wards on the other side of the road.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is a pity that only the Kuzhittura people are asked to pay for the cost of medicines.

PRESIDENT: It is not only in Kuzhittura; there are a number of other places like that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is one of the important taluk towns.

PRESIDENT: What do you say in regard to Attingal?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I maintain that Government should not give any grant to any such institution. I think it is not at all fair to ask the tax-payer to contribute a grant to the Mission hospitals where payment for medical aid is compulsory.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): What about the grant-in-aid schools?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): This is not an institution like schools. So I strongly oppose this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I support every item of the demand asked for. I think there is a bit of hair-spliting with regard to the Tekkadi dispensary. We should welcome the dispensary there which will be under the management of the British Government and we should also contribute whatever we can on the score of economy. When it becomes necessary for us to open a dispensary of our own, it is quite open to us to do so. But till then we must economise as much as possible and go in shares with the other dispensary.

The next item I think no one has disputed.

The third item is the Mission Hospital at Kuzhittura. I maintain that the medicine that is dispensed in our State Hospitals, which is free to the rich as well as the poor, is not quite the proper thing. The rich ought to be made to pay a little. But in this case the Darbar Physician has informed us that in the Mission Hospital the poor are not made to pay. I take the Darbar Physician's word for it, and believe that only those who can pay are made to pay something. And if my information is not quite wrong, there is only a voluntary contribution that is made. There is no hard and fast rule that a person should pay so much for each medicine. It is only a voluntary act. In the case of the Neyyur Hospital, all patients are treated alike and it is only the rich people wishing to pay contribution that pay, and the Mission is relieving the Government of a good deal of expenditure.

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether Mr. Hoogewerf has ever paid for medicines got from the Trivandrum Hospitals?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether he would be willing to pay.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If I can pay, I will pay.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Hoogewerf whether, in a taluk where there is a Government hospital, the middle class people have to pay for the medicine.

PRESIDENT: It is a hypothetical question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking whether the inhabitants of a taluk where there is a Government hospital have to pay for the medicine they have to get from it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Medicine is given free from all Government hospitals.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My second question to Mr. Hoogewerf is whether, in a taluk were there is only an aided hospital, the middle class people will not be obliged to pay.

PRESIDENT: It depends upon the distance. Sometimes the bandy hire is far too great while the medicine is given free.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Where there is a Government hospital, there is no payment by the middle class people for the medicines. My next question was where there is only an aided hospital or dispensary, the people, even though they were living in the immediate vicinity, were obliged to pay, and who would not have to pay if there was a Government hospital.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My answer is, it is not possible for Government to have hospitals in every nook and corner.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It is not an answer to my question.

PRESIDENT: He answers it in his own way.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If any Mission agency or any other agency comes forward, we should welcome it. Half a loaf is better than no bread at all.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Why should the people of one taluk be preferentially treated while the inhabitants of other taluks are obliged to pay?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I will answer it by asking him a question myself. Why should there be a homeopathic hospital

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in a place where there should be an allopathic hospital? These are different conditions and circumstances which we have to take into consideration. We cannot have a cut and dry rule, for some people are better placed than others. In the Trivandrum hospital, we have got a number of surgeons. But in Quilon there are not so many skilled surgeons. The Quilon people cannot say: "We will not pay taxes because we have not got as many good surgeons here as in Trivandrum." These are conditions of life to which we have to adjust ourselves and make the very best of it. These are my reasons for supporting the grant.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I have great pleasure in supporting the motion. The popular requirements for education and medical aid are increasing day after day and they can never be adequately met by departmental institutions alone. There are grant-in-aid schools which are doing very largely the work that Government should do in the matter of supplying primary education.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether they are not subject to the control of the State?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I remember the particular point that Mr. Velu Pillai urged in reference to the Tekkadi dispensary and I shall come to it. So one method and the chief method of meeting the requirements of education and medical aid will be to subsidise private agencies wherever they are coming forward. That principle has been actually recognised by Government in subsidising a number of Ayurvedic *Vaidyasalas* in the State. Mr. Kumara Pillai and some other friends on this side seem to be upset by this solitary fact that we have to go to these private institutions and that we will have to pay there while in Trivandrum medical aid is given absolutely free. What about these *Vaidyasalas* which are in receipt of a grant from the Government?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I point out that there is a vast difference in the prices of English medicines and Ayurvedic medicines?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I am not bound to take any serious note of it. I may simply say that some people prefer allopathic, others homeopathic and a few others the Ayurvedic system. They are not concerned with the actual cost at all. Very well-to-do gentlemen who have faith neither in the allopathic nor in the homeopathic system go back to the old village Ayurvedic doctor. The point to be considered is not the actual amount of money that a man may have to part with. The principle concerned is that, when you go to a medical institution like the Ayurvedic *Vaidyasalas*, you have to pay the price of it without any distinction of rich or poor. The underlying principle that Government recognises, when it subsidises these institutions, is the desirability of meeting the essential requirements of people in the matter of medical aid. How far

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[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

the public would be relieved of the cost of getting medical treatment is a second consideration. Medical aid should be available wherever it is asked for, by the Government subsidising private institutions wherever it is possible and where private institutions are springing up as a result of local patriotism and local activity. Take the case of any important centre where there is a departmental High School functioning. The inhabitants of the locality are starting an up-to-date educational institution in conformity with the conditions laid down by the Education Code. Government as a matter of principle transfer the departmental school to some other centre where private munificence is not coming forward. Essentially the same policy has to be pursued and in a very much larger measure for meeting the medical requirements of the people. Sir, I beg to submit that what has been done hitherto should be continued by aiding private medical institutions whether they are run by Ayurvedic, allopathic, homeopathic *ashtangahridaya* or *unani* doctors, no doubt subject to a certain measure of control by Government.

Sir, as a general proposition this proposal by the Darbar Physician to give a grant to the Martandam Hospital is not objectionable on first principles. Suppose here is an institution which requires a non-recurring initial expenditure of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000. The authorities concerned approach the Government for a grant. Supposing the Missionaries were not available in the locality, all that money should have been spent by the Government. In these matters, one ought not to go by the question of payment alone. As for a departmental institution being started there, Government cannot obviously afford to start hospitals in every nook and corner of the country, even where there is a population of 500. Theoretically Government must do it and can do it, but it must be done leisurely. Until then, the requirements of the people have to be met. Without questioning the wisdom of the suggestion that there ought to be a departmental institution in Kuzhittura, the head-quarters of the taluk, I may submit that, until the Government is able to do it, it is the duty of the Government to help financially those who are prepared to spend time, labour and money for the work, out of humanitarian spirit, and the fact that they are levying a few chackrams should not make any difference in the matter of the award of the grant. The principle ought to be uniform whether it is functioning according to the allopathic system or the Ayurvedic ideals. It does not make any difference. Government can well afford to forgo the charges. You can only ask private bodies to contribute a portion of the expenditure. At the same time a very large portion of the cost can be met by the Government. It is the duty of the Government to encourage private bodies.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is the rate of fees in aided schools different from the rate in Government schools?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): So far as private schools are concerned, there is no fee levied in recognised primary schools.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In the higher classes?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): They have to conform to the conditions of the Education Code.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking whether the amount of fee in a particular class is not the same both in private and in departmental schools.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Private schools have to conform to the rules of the Education Code.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Consider the fact that where there is only an aided dispensary, the price of medicines will have to be paid and where there is a Government dispensary no such price will have to be paid. Is there no difference?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): There is certainly difference. People may congratulate themselves if they do not have to pay. It is their misfortune that they have not been placed in a fortunate position, say for example in Trivandrum. But that is not a solitary instance of their misfortune in not living or functioning in Trivandrum. People are not always getting all that they deserve. But the point missed by my friends is that, as I said, there are aided *Vaidyasalas* which charge every person that goes to them for help. I will pass on. When you go to a Government hospital—you have to pay the doctor a fee. When you go to a private dispensary, they admit you there. They ask you to make some voluntary contribution when you leave the place. When you prepare a bill of cost for one who is treated by a medical officer attached to the General Hospital, a man like my friend Mr. Velu Pillai, who finds it necessary to summon to his aid a medical officer from the General Hospital—and compare this with the bill of a private practitioner, you will find that the latter is not higher. In particular cases, it may be, Sir, a matter of personal relationship where a medical officer may decline to take fees from a vakil for the treatment in the same way as a vakil may decline to receive fees from the medical officer and thus both may benefit by mutual service.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): A word of personal explanation. I fear Mr. Krishna Aiyangar has misunderstood me.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I am sorry then.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not speak with reference to people who are unwilling to pay fees to doctors. I for one always pay my doctors. The argument just now raised by me was for those who are not able to pay.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): What I say is that people who are in Trivandrum and who go to the General Hospital for medicine, need not pay, whereas if

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[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

a man goes to a Mission Hospital he can save the visiting fee of the doctor and pay the charges for medicine. After all, Sir, we are getting into the details of questions that ought to be approched from a higher standpoint. Any attempt by private agencies at relief of human suffering and misery ought to be welcomed by the Government, because they are really doing the work which the Government otherwise would have to do. My friend asks why the Government should not do it. I will ask him to bring a proposition and I will say that I am prepared to second it. Well, my friends may agree as to the desirability of the Government supplying medical aid free. When private agencies are coming forward, we ought to help them. The proposal to help ought not to be resisted on the ground that some people can buy medicine, whereas in some centres some people have to pay more for medical aid than other people have to do in the town of Trivandrum. With reference to the other question of Tekkadi, Mr. Velu Pillai raised an objection and it is certainly entitled to our serious consideration. If we are going to permanently entangle ourselves with any treaty with the Madras Government in the matter of guaranteeing in prepetuity the financing of the institution, no matter whether Kumili develops into a town in the near future or not, if once for all we are giving up our freedom for backing out of it, there is considerable force in the objection. It stands on a entirely different footing. But so far as other hospitals and institutions in the State are concerned—which are in receipt of grant-in-aid—the inspection of those institutions by the Medical officer for the time being, whether it is the Darbar Physician or the Ayurveda Director, will be one of the conditions of recognition and grant. So far as hospitals outside the State are concerned, what we have now to consider is whether it is being supervised by competent authority and manned by a competent professional agency. I think, out of courtesy, common sense requires that we should recognise the competency of the medical supervising authority in the matter of the Tekkadi dispensary which keeps up to the level required of it by the Medical Department of the Madras Government, until we hear of any mismanagement. Of course, the Darbar Physician may report to the Government whether the hospital there is working properly. If, on the other hand, as a result of inspection or as a result of information derived by the Darbar Physician as to irregularities in the working, then we can back out of it. After all it is only an offer that proceed from this Government and not a measure brought by a superior power. It is only an offer made by this Government to ensure in the cheapest manner medical relief. If, as my friend remarked, Kumili is the most malarial place in that malarial district, it is better to establish a hospital. I appreciate the appeal made by him; I sympathise with him in the statement and as such I do not quarrel with my friend. But until his vision is realised of a Kumili extending in circumference in the near future where the inhabitants require a hospital and until that happy day arrives, we ought not to sit with folded hands. We ought to help the institution in the neighbourhood. With these words, I support the motion.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Suppose there is some complaint about the dispensary conducted by the British Government, will any member of the Madras Legislative Council take up that question of complaint and ask for an enquiry? Is it likely?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): We ought to presume that every Government will do its duty reasonably and fairly.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): So the non-officials need not concern themselves about it?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): It is for this Government in the discharge of its duty towards its subjects to bring to the notice of the higher power and get it rectified at any stage. It is not so serious a matter as my friend anticipates. We are not getting into the formality of any interstatal agreements from which neither of the parties to the contract would be in a position to back out.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The motion for the grant comprises three heads in the present instance. With respect to the question of further accommodation in the Leper Asylum I am happy to support the grant. With respect to the grant for Tekkadi, I doubt the wisdom of it. With respect to the third head, I have very great pleasure in opposing the grant. If, as my friend Mr. Krishna Aiyangar puts it, the matter is to be viewed from higher ideals than what one may call reasonable grounds—

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Am I to understand that higher ideals will be in conflict with reason?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): This question should not be scrutinised and scanned. I thought, Sir, when my friend proposed to view the matter from lofty heights, he was asking us to eschew the ordinary tests of reason in considering this question. Anyhow I see that the problem has been approached from a wrong angle. I wish to elucidate what I have to say. Here the citizens of Trivandrum, especially the poor among them, are entitled to gratuitous medical help from the State. The State has established various hospitals and the poor people in Trivandrum are having the benefit of them. In Martandam or at Kuzhittura there is unfortunately no hospital. The poor of that locality go without any assistance from the Government in the matter of getting medical relief. There is a Mission Hospital in that centre or its vicinity, say within a radius of two miles; the authorities in that hospital require a small payment, from the poor patients, for the medicine.

MR. JOSEPH PNJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether those who are unable to pay are forced to pay?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes, they are forced to pay. That is what I understand.

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: That is not correct. Mrs. Lukose said that the poor are not asked to pay.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In departmental matters, I shall accept the opinion of the Darbar Physician. In the Council, I will accept the statement of Dr. M. N. Pillai. If that is correct I raise the question whether the State is discharging its legitimate duties in the particular locality known as Kuzhittura. I am of opinion that they are not. On the other hand, they are paying an amount of money wherewith they are enabling the Mission authorities to get some more money by utilising it. What the State is doing in the particular centre is to pay the medical authorities of the Martandam hospital to earn more. This I cannot understand—

PRESIDENT: That is not being done. The contribution in question is a non-recurring grant.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): If that is to be done, what about the other centres in the State?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not know how many other centres there are in the State. I am concerned only with this. If the Mission hospitals are utilised for making money from the population who receive medical assistance from those hospitals, that is a vicious principle. On the other hand, if the Government of Travancore would be so good as to ask the authorities at Martandam to make an annual computation of the expenditure incurred on behalf of the poor in the vicinity—

PRESIDENT: It seems to me that there is a good deal of misunderstanding about the facts. I believe the Government are making an annual contribution for maintenance to private hospitals. In grant-in-aid hospitals, one of the conditions is that they should distribute medicine free to the poor.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If that is the theory and practice that is quite satisfactory. The question then is about the middle class. In the Government hospitals, middle class people are getting free medical aid. But in Martandam and Kuzhittura they are made to pay for it. I would request the Government to get a statement of the average expenditure in connection with the medicine given to middle class people and that Government do undertake to pay the amount so found due. That is the right principle. Instead of doing that, simply to put an amount of money in the pockets of the Mission agency and to make them utilise that money to derive further profit cannot stand the test of reason. Therefore if the Government can commute the whole into an annual subsidy for the free treatment of middle and poor class people as is being done in the Sirkar hospitals, I agree to the course. But I cannot agree to the Government making any invidious distinction so that the middle class people should pay for their medical treatment in some places while in others they are under no such obligation. From the point of view of the people, that is a very

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wrong principle, and I object to it. With respect to the other question, we are told that this is an offer made by the Travancore Government. I think we are over-anxious to contribute something towards it.

PRESIDENT: I do not think the Government are "over-anxious." They want to make the best arrangement for the treatment of the people there.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I would justify the term "over-anxious." There are in Travancore, British possessions known as Anjengo and Tangasseri. With respect to these places, the inhabitants of these places receive medical aid from adjoining Travancore hospitals. Such being the case, how can the British Government ever stipulate for a subsidy because some Travancore coolies receive medical aid from the hospital at Tekkadi?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): At Kumili there are officers of the Travancore Darbar.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I grant that. There are British officers at Anjengo and Tangasseri who take advantage of our hospitals.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): It is not all coolies.

PRESIDENT: May I point out to the House that we are spending a good deal of time over these supplementary grants?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I would simply conclude by saying that I do not see the wisdom of this contribution. The floating population we have at Kumili is very small. I do not know what percentage of the money is spent for Travancoreans. Mr. Krishna Aiyangar whispered that there were some Travancore officers. Even with respect to them, I oppose the grant to make a contribution unasked for.

MR. TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR (*Jenmies*): മാത്താണ്ടം ആശുപത്രിയിൽ മരുന്നു വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതിനു പോകുന്ന ആളുകളുടെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട് എത്രത്തോളമുണ്ടെന്ന് എനിക്കു നല്ലവണ്ണം അറിയാം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള അനേകം താലൂക്കുകളിൽനിന്നു വിശേഷപ്പെട്ട ഒരു രീതിയിലാണ് വിളവംകോട്ടുതാലൂക്കുകാർ ഇപ്പോൾ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നത്. മറ്റുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം (കരംകൊടുക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിലും മറ്റും) ഒരുപോലെയാണ്; ഒരു വ്യത്യാസവുമില്ല. ഈ ചികിത്സാവിഷയത്തിൽ വിളവംകോട്ടു താലൂക്കുകാരെ ഒരു പ്രത്യേകതരത്തിൽ ഗണിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ലാ. കളിയൽ എന്നു പറയുന്ന ഒരു മലംപ്രദേശം വിളവംകോട്ട് താലൂക്കിനെ തൊട്ടുകിടക്കുന്നു. മലമ്പനി ധാരാളമായുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥലമാണ് അവിടം. ഈ ഒരു കാര്യം ആലോചിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ

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[Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar.]

വിളവങ്കോട്ട താലൂക്കിൽ ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ സക്കാർ ആശുപത്രി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയാലും അശേഷം അധികമാകയില്ല. അവിടത്തേക്ക് ഈ ഒരു ഗ്രാൻറ് ആശുപത്രിമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. അവിടെയുള്ള ആശുപത്രി എത്രത്തോളം സാധുക്കൾക്ക് ഉപയോഗപ്രദമാകുന്നു എന്ന് എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്മാർ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. അതിൽ കൂടുതലായ സങ്കടം എനിക്ക് അനുഭവിച്ചറിയാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഫ o കൊല്ലമായിട്ട് അവക്കുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്. ആദ്യത്തെ ശ്രീമൂലം പ്രജാസഭയിൽ തന്നെ എന്റെ ഒരു വിഷയം ഇതായിരുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: அது விஷயம் வேறை. அது இதில் வராதில்லை.

MR. TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR (*Jenmies*): വിഷയം വേറെ അല്ല. ആ ആശുപത്രിക്കു ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുത്തു എന്നല്ലാതെ അതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രയോജനം കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. വിലകൊടുക്കാതെ അന്യതാലൂക്കുകാക്കു മരുന്നു കിട്ടിവരുന്നതുപോലെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കും കിട്ടിയെങ്കിൽ എത്ര ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും ഞങ്ങൾ പൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. സാധുക്കൾക്കു മരുന്നു ധർമ്മമായി കൊടുക്കുന്നു എന്ന് എന്റെ ചില സ്നേഹിതന്മാർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതു വാസ്തവമായിരിക്കാം. ഒരുവിധം കാലക്ഷേപത്തിനു മാത്രമുള്ളവരോടു നാലിരട്ടി വില മേടിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് എനിക്കനുഭവമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥാപനത്തിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും സഹായം ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കില്ല. ആശുപത്രിക്കു ഗുണമുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു സാധുക്കൾക്ക് ഒരു ഗുണം കിട്ടുകയെന്നുള്ളതു വളരെ അപൂർവ്വമാണ്. സാധുക്കൾ എന്ന് അവർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു് ഫ o o-നു ള പേരെ മാത്രമാണ്. ബാക്കിയുള്ളവരോടു് ഇരട്ടിയോ രണ്ടിരട്ടിയോ പണം വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): ചിലവുകഴിച്ചിട്ടു മിച്ചമുണ്ടോ എന്നു അറിയാമോ?

MR. TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR (*Jenmies*): കണക്കു ഞാൻ നോക്കീട്ടില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ അനുഭവമാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു. നെയ്യാറിൻകര രണ്ടു് ആശുപത്രിയുള്ളതിൽ ഒന്നിനെ വിളവങ്കോട്ടതാലൂക്കിലുള്ള കുഴിത്തുറ മാറ്റിയാൽ വളരെ പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കും. ഈ മിഷ്യൺ ആശുപത്രിയെക്കൊണ്ടു വിളവങ്കോട്ട താലൂക്കുകാക്കു യാതൊരു

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ഗുണവുമില്ല. ഈ ഒരു വിഷയത്തിലേക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നു നല്ല ഒരു സംഖ്യ ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കുന്നു എന്ന സംഗതിയെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ഉപയോഗമുള്ളതിന് എത്ര പണം ചിലവാക്കിയാലും സങ്കടമില്ല. വളരെ കാലത്തെ പരാതിക്കു ശേഷമാണ് ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നു ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് എന്നു് ഒരു പ്രജാസഭയിൽവച്ചു ഗവർൺമേൻറു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വിളവംകോട്ടാലൂക്കുകാക്കു യാതൊരു ഗുണവും കിട്ടുന്നതല്ല. അന്യതാലൂക്കുകാക്കു ലഭിക്കുന്ന വൈദ്യസഹായം ഇവിടെ ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്താണ്ഡം ആശുപത്രിക്കു ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): Sir, I shall first answer the objection of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. The first point raised by him was that the giving of this grant would lead to complications, and that the Travancore Government officers would not have any control over the administrative matters relating to the hospital. At Kumili there are Government officers. In Mission hospitals also there are officers and they welcome all visitors. Grant-in-aid institutions are inspected by the Darbar Physician. When I inspected some of the grant-in-aid institutions lately, I saw the remarks made by various Government officers and I also noticed that defects pointed out in certain institutions had been corrected.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I must correct Mrs. Lukose. I did not refer to all Mission hospitals. I referred to the Tekkadi Dispensary.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): I see that I am leading up to that point. The instructions given by Dr. Lakshmanan about two years ago in certain grant-in-aid Mission hospitals have been carried out.

I do not foresee any such difficulties in allowing the grant for the Tekkadi Dispensary. I do not see why we need imagine all sorts of difficulties. But that is left to the House to decide.

The third item is for awarding a non-recurring grant for the Mission hospital at Kuzhittura. The amount asked for is very small. I have been able to inspect 3 or 4 places where there are several inhabitants absolutely without any medical aid and those people are even without Ayurvedic hospitals. Is it not our duty to give some medical relief first to places without any such convenience more than to start hospitals of our own where Mission authorities are already ministering to the needs of the people as far as they are able.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will it not be advisable to shift the Parassala Hospital to Kuzhittura?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): That is a different matter.

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[Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has the Darbar Physician ever received any complaint from people that some sort of blackmailing is being practiced in some dispensaries?

PRESIDENT: We are dealing with Martandam.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, in Martandam.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): I did not hear the question, Sir.

PRESIDENT: He wants to know whether there is any complaint from the people of Martandam that the poor are being asked to pay for medical aid.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): No, Sir. The poor are not asked to pay anything. On the other hand they are treated very well.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do they keep an account of the number of persons treated?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): Certainly they do. I have actually seen the patients and have questioned them. As far as I have been able to gather, there is only a population of about 350 at Kumili. So that, I do not think that for such a population, the Government will be justified in opening a separate dispensary now. But when it rises in importance, as Mr. Krishna Aiyar says, I think the question of a Government dispensary may be considered. I was told by Mr. M. N. Pillai and Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai that there were complaints about the Martandam institution. They think that the poor are not treated free. I must assure the House that the poor are treated absolutely free. It is the people who are able to pay that are asked to pay.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): How is that being ascertained?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): The Mission authorities are able to do that satisfactorily.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I point out that my information is that they charge every patient whoever he be, poor or rich?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): No, the member is mistaken.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do they keep accounts?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): They keep accounts.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is the amount of collections made by the hospital year after year?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): I do not know the exact figures.

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MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is the Medical Officer at that place a qualified man?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is he allowed to conduct post mortem examination?

MRS M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): I am not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether the institution is not conducted on a humanitarian basis and the commercial aspect does not come in?

PRESIDENT: We are not concerned with commercial institutions now. We are concerned only with the Martandam institution.

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): I inspected the Neyyur Mission Hospital and the Takkalai Hospital. All people are treated free in the Government hospital and yet I found more poor and more middle class patients in Neyyur than at Takkalai. So that it does not necessarily follow that if you have a Government hospital in any place patients will necessarily prefer to go there for treatment.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai spoke of a "vicious principle." I think the people are getting medical relief far cheaper than if a doctor visited the patients in their own homes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has the Darbar Physician examined the accounts before a statement of that description is brought forward?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): I have not examined the accounts. About two years ago, when I had nothing to do with the administration of the department, I went into the institution and saw the patients there and questioned them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): In case you give them a sufficiently good grant, will it be possible for the department to prevent them from charging patients?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am putting the question.

PRESIDENT: The question of the quantum of the charge does not arise at all. We are dealing with building grant. I must say I do not see the relevancy of the question.

Have you anything more to say, Mrs. Lukose?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): I have nothing more to say.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Karitkapalli*): May I know whether there have not been cases of plague in Kumili?

MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon in charge*): There have been; a special officer is sent over whenever the necessity arises.

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is a special officer always needed there?

PRESIDENT: No, not always, but only when there is plague.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

DEMAND XVI—CHEMICAL EXAMINER, ETC.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 350 for the purchase of a microscope for the Chemical Examiner. There is at present a microscope in the Chemical Examiner's laboratory. But it is an old one and its magnifying power is very low. It has become thoroughly out of order. I need not tell the House how it is necessary for the Chemical Examiner's laboratory to have a microscope.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*)(*Deputy President*): May I know what the Chemical Examiner did ever since the instrument went out of order? What other instrument was he using?

PRESIDENT: Now it has become thoroughly out of order.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Chemical Examiner is also the Government Bacteriologist and he can occasionally make use of the instrument provided for that office.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House has no objection to sanction the demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIX.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,722 under Demand XIX, Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Co-operative Societies—for the retention of 3 Temporary Co-operative Inspectors and 3 peons in connection with flood relief work. It will be seen from the budget for the current year that a special provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been mad for the grant of special loans for flood relief and restoration in the flood-affected areas in North Travancore. This amount of Rs. 2 lakhs has to be distributed through Co-operative Societies to persons who apply for such loans. The matter was referred to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and he pointed out that there were about 780 Co-operative Societies in the State, with only 12 Inspectors, that this worked out at the rate of about 65 Societies *per* Inspector and that it would be impossible for these Inspectors to check the applications for the loans and to see to their proper distribution. Hence he applied for the services of three Temporary Inspectors for employment in flood-affected areas; and the matter having come up after the last meeting of the Council and orders having had to be passed urgently, their appointments had to be sanctioned by the Government

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